

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended): A ~~system according to claim 1~~ color bar code system comprising:

a camera reader to read at least one bar code, said bar code being formed of a subset of N bar code colors; and

a color selector to select said N bar code colors to be generally distinct from each other given a range of colors that said camera reader is expected to produce given at least one environmental condition in which said camera reader is expected to operate,

~~and~~ wherein said color selector comprises:

a color chart generator to generate at least one color chart of color patches of the a range of colors produceable by a printer capable of printing color bar codes;

a color space generator to receive the an output of a camera reader upon reading said at least one color chart with at least one illumination and to generate a color space database from said output; and

an actual space color selector to select N bar code colors from said color space database to be generally distinct from each other.

4. (Currently amended): A unit according to claim 3 and wherein said actual space color selector comprises an optimizer to attempt to optimize ~~the~~ a distance in color space between said N bar code colors.

5. (Original): A unit according to claim 4 and wherein said optimizer comprises a simulated annealer.

6. (Currently amended): A color selector for a color bar code system, the selector comprising:

a color chart generator to generate at least one color chart of color patches of ~~the~~ a range of colors produceable by a printer capable of printing color bar codes;

a color space generator to receive ~~the~~ an output of a camera reader upon reading said at least one color chart with at least one illumination and to generate a color space database from said output; and

an actual space color selector to select N bar code colors from said color space database to be generally distinct.

7. (Currently amended): A unit according to claim 6 and wherein said actual space color selector comprises an optimizer to attempt to optimize ~~the~~ a distance in color space between said N bar code colors.

8. (Original): A unit according to claim 7 and wherein said optimizer comprises a simulated annealer.

Claims 9-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 11~~ comprising:

selecting N bar code colors for a color bar code system to be generally distinct from each other given a range of colors that a camera reader is expected to produce

given at least one environmental condition in which said camera reader is expected to operate.

~~and wherein said selecting comprises~~comprising:

generating at least one color chart of color patches of ~~the~~ a range of colors produceable by a printer capable of printing color bar codes;

generating a color space database from ~~the~~ an output of a camera reader upon reading said at least one color chart with at least one illumination; and

selecting N bar code colors from said color space database to be generally distinct from each other.

13. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 12 and wherein said second selecting comprises attempting to optimize ~~the~~ a distance in color space between said N bar code colors.

14. (Original): A method according to claim 13 and wherein said attempting comprises performing simulated annealing on said color space database.